

**Washington, DC** - This morning, the United States House of Representatives passed a historic free trade agreement with Peru, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act. The agreement, which passed with strong bipartisan support, included enforceable labor rights provisions and environmental standards, both of which are unprecedented for a modern day free trade agreement. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement applauding the passage of the trade agreement:

“Free and fair trade is essential to our economic growth and prosperity in today's global economy. This historic trade agreement will translate into more jobs, stronger marketplaces, and lower prices for consumers in both Peru and the United States,” said Gonzalez. “It's crucial that the United States engage Latin America on economic matters to improve and sustain vital diplomatic relationships necessary for our national security. This trade agreement lays a foundation for accomplishing this goal,” he added.

“The resulting strengthened economic ties between our countries will truly improve the standard of living for Americans and Peruvians alike.”

In 2006, Texas exported almost \$800 million worth of goods to Peru, the vast majority of which originated from small businesses with fewer than 500 employees.

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